

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A computer implemented method for automatically uninstalling a software application resident on at least one computer terminal in a network, the method comprising:

identifying ~~the~~ steps required to uninstall an instance of the software application resident on a model computer;

generating a self-executing standalone uninstall package from ~~the~~ information obtained in the identifying step, said ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package adapted to automatically remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal; and

transmitting the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package to the at least one terminal, whereupon the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package ~~will~~ automatically removes the software application from the at least one computer terminal.

2. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package is generated by executing the steps of:

removing the software application from the model computer by using a corresponding uninstall program having a plurality of executable uninstall options, wherein said uninstall program is adapted to interface with a user in order to select which of the plurality of executable uninstall options are to be executed;

recording the uninstall options selected from the plurality of executable uninstall options within the uninstall program; and

generating the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package from the recorded selected uninstall options within the uninstall program.

3. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package is generated by executing the steps of:

installing the software application on a the model computer;

maintaining a record of the software application's install-time activities on the model computer; and

generating the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package from the record of the software application's install-time activities.

4. (currently amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package contains a minimum number of run-time components required for removal of the software application from the at least one computer terminal.

5. (currently amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step includes:

identifying at least one specific computer terminal from which the software application will be removed; and

transmitting the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package solely to the at least one specific computer terminal, whereupon the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package executes itself and removes the software application.

6. (currently amended) The computer implemented method of claim 3 1 further comprising the steps of:

maintaining a record of the model computer's file system prior to installation of the software application;

installing the software application and subsequently executing the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package on the model computer;

verifying that the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package completely removed all files and registry entries associated with the software application by

comparing the model computer's resulting file system to the maintained pre-installation record of the model computer's file system; and

modifying the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package if necessary so that the model computer's file system after executing the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package is equivalent to the maintained pre-installation record of the model computer's file system.

7. (currently amended) ~~An~~Apparatus in a model computer for automatically uninstalling a software application resident on at least one computer terminal in a network, the apparatus comprising:

- a detection module adapted to identify, by means of using a model computer as a test bed, all the removal steps required to uninstall the software application from the at least one computer terminal;
- a generation module adapted to create a self-executing standalone uninstall package from the identified removal steps in the detection module, said ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package adapted to remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal; and
- a transmission module adapted to transmit the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package to the at least one computer terminal, whereupon the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package automatically executes itself and removes the software application.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the ~~generation of the self-executing uninstall package~~ further comprises:

- an uninstall program, resident on the model computer, containing a plurality of executable uninstall options corresponding to the removal of the software application, said uninstall program adapted to interface with a user in order to select which of the plurality of executable uninstall options are to be executed; wherein
- the detection module ~~being~~ is further adapted to record the uninstall program's selection of the executable uninstall options ~~from the plurality of executable uninstall options~~; and
- the generation module ~~being~~ is further adapted to generate the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package from the recorded selection of executable uninstall options ~~by the uninstall program~~.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the ~~generation of the self-executing uninstall package~~ further comprises:

- the detection module ~~being~~ is further adapted to record the software application's install-time activities during installation on the model

computer and identify the removal steps required to remove the software application; and

the generation module ~~being~~ is further adapted to create the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package from the identified removal steps in the detection module.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package contains a minimum set of run-time components required to uninstall the software application.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9 ~~7~~ further comprising wherein:
the model computer ~~maintaining~~ maintains a first record of the file system and registry prior to the installation of the software application;
the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package ~~removing~~ removes the software application from the model computer;
the model computer ~~creating~~ creates a second record of the file system and registry after the software application is removed;
a verification module ~~adapted to compare~~ compares the first record of the file system and registry to the second record of the file system and registry; and
the generation module ~~further adapted to modify~~ modifies the ~~self-executing software application~~ uninstall package if necessary to ensure that both records of the model computer's file system and registry are equivalent after the software application is removed.

12. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing the removal of a software applications resident on a ~~plurality of~~ at least one computer terminals on a network, the computer program product including:
a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the identification of ~~the~~ steps required to remove the software application from a model computer;

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the generation of an automatically self-executing standalone uninstall package from the identified steps ~~required to remove the software application from at least one computer terminal on the~~ network; and

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the transmission of the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package to the at least one computer terminal whereupon the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package ~~will execute~~ executes itself and removes the software application from the at least one computer terminal.

13. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the ~~generation of the self-executing~~ uninstall package further comprises:

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the removal of the software application from the model computer by using a corresponding uninstall program having a plurality of executable uninstall options, said uninstall program adapted to interface with a user in order to select which of the executable uninstall options ~~is~~ are to be executed;

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect ~~the~~ monitoring of the selection of the executable uninstall options; and

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect ~~the~~ generation of the ~~self-executing~~ uninstall package from the selection of the executable uninstall options.

14. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the ~~generation of the self-executing~~ uninstall package further comprises:

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect ~~the~~ maintenance of a record of the software application's install-time activities on the model computer; and

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the generation of the self-executing uninstall package from the maintained record of the software application's install-time activities.

15. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 12 ~~wherein~~ comprising a computer readable program code device is configured to cause a computer to effect the self-executing uninstall package to contain a minimum set of run-time components required to remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal.